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29 May 1998
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 64 and 81
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Note verbale dated 29 May 1998 from the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kasymjomart Tokaev, of 28 May 1998, concerning the nuclear-weapon tests conducted by Pakistan (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have this note verbale and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 64 and 81, and of the Security Council.

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ANNEX

Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kasymjomart Tokaev, of 28 May 1998

The nuclear-weapon tests conducted by Pakistan represent an escalation in tension not only in the region, but also on a global scale.

It is to be noted with profound regret that India and Pakistan, carried away by nuclear ambitions, have seriously impaired international security. The actions by these countries are eroding the basis for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Kazakhstan firmly opposes the proliferation of nuclear weapons and urges all States to act responsibly and with restraint.

The leaders of Kazakhstan believe that India and Pakistan must accede to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

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Letter dated 29 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan of 29 May 1998 on the tests of nuclear devices in Pakistan.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 64 and 81, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alisher VOHIDOV
Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan

According to reports by international information agencies, a series of nuclear explosions was conducted in Pakistan on 28 May 1998. These actions were received with great concern in Uzbekistan, and are regarded as a serious threat to the regional security of Central Asia and an irresponsible challenge to the entire world community.

There is particular concern over the fact that the nuclear explosions in Pakistan, which borders directly on one of the world's most densely populated regions, the Central Asian region, were conducted following the condemnation by the entire world community of similar tests in India.

It is also deeply distressing that Pakistan, which in the past had called for the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia, has today radically changed its foreign policy positions. Such a turn of events is capable of leading to a new round of the nuclear-arms race in the region.

Uzbekistan is convinced that the nuclear-weapons tests in South Asia undermine the efforts of the international community to build a stable and safe peace, and that only consistent prohibition of the manufacture and proliferation of nuclear weapons can and must form a reliable basis for universal security on the threshold of the twenty-first century.

As a leading proponent of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia and a party to the treaties on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and on a comprehensive nuclear-test ban, Uzbekistan opposes the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the world and firmly condemns all nuclear tests, whatever the intentions underlying them.

Uzbekistan requests the Security Council to convene a special meeting and make an assessment of the situation that has arisen in South Asia.

The Government of Uzbekistan calls on the Government of Pakistan to take all necessary measures for the speedy inclusion of Pakistan in the universal nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime defined by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Tashkent
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Agenda items 36, 37 and 87
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING
THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE
AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 29 May 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Israel, the occupying Power, has committed yet another illegal and provocative action in occupied Jerusalem, in flagrant violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, and in blatant defiance of the international community.

On Sunday, 24 May 1998, Israel, the occupying Power, staged a military parade in Jerusalem to mark the thirty-first anniversary of the occupation of East Jerusalem. This action by the Israeli Government blatantly violates the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, the Hague Regulations of 1907 and various relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The Security Council has affirmed, in 24 resolutions, the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to all the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, including Jerusalem, and has repeatedly declared that all measures and arrangements taken by Israel, including the legislative and administrative ones, aimed at changing the legal status of the city are null and void and without any legal validity whatsoever. Furthermore, the Security Council specifically called upon Israel, in its resolutions 162 (1961) of 11 April 1961 and 250 (1968) of 27 April 1968, to refrain from holding military parades in Jerusalem, and it unanimously deplored such an action in resolution 251 (1968) of 2 May 1968.

In the past several weeks, moreover, Israel has committed a series of dangerous actions that threaten to plunge the region into an even more dire and unstable situation. These provocations, which include the indiscriminate use of fire during the Palestinian commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of al-Nakba, the burning of one of the gates of Al-Haram Al-Sharif (Bab Al-Ghawanima), the attempt on 25 May 1998 by Jewish extremists to establish a new settlement in the Old City and the military parade in Jerusalem have all been undertaken while last attempts are being exhausted by the United States of America and the international community to save the peace process.

We condemn the above-mentioned Israeli actions and we call upon the international community to exert the necessary pressure on Israel to cease all illegal and provocative measures directed against the Palestinian people and against the peace process. The Security Council should resume its responsibilities with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security in this region and must firmly respond to Israel's continuing violations of international law and Security Council resolutions.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as an official document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36, 37 and 87, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Marwan JILANI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.